

THE CAUSE OF EARTHQUAKES.

Schematic Disturbances and Violent Storms Due to the Position of the Planets.

THE CHARLESTON DISASTER.

Ancient and Modern upheavals. Electrical Clouds and other Phenomena—Biblical and Scientific Citations.

[Written for the Omaha Sunday Bee.]

To make a scientific article understood it is best to discuss scientific terms. When it cannot be done, explain them. Hence if we say Venus is in perihelion, we mean it is near the sun; if in aphelion, far from the sun. If the moon is in perigee, it is near the earth; if in apogee, far from the earth. If a planet is in conjunction, it is near another as viewed from the earth; if in opposition, the earth is between it and the sun. An inferior planet is one inside of the orbit of the earth, and if it is in superior conjunction, it is beyond and near the sun. If it is in inferior conjunction it is near the earth and the sun, inside of the orbit of the earth.

When God said: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?" "When the morning stars sang together," "the patriarch could not answer."

Or, as it reads in Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Like the patriarch, scientific men have puzzled, and no intelligent interpretation have been given.

Or when the Deity, referring to a later period of the earth's existence corresponding to the second verse of Genesis, asked Job: "Or who shut up the sea with doors when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?" "When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it," he was still unable to reply.

Or again, as Genesis reads in the New Revision: "And the earth was waste and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Eminent divines have assured us the scriptures do not teach science, yet they team with it, and scientific men have confused us by declaring they had covered ages of untold years. Huxley has said no one believes a cataclysm (deluge) destroyed all existence on the earth, although this passage of scripture and marine fossils on the mountains as lately covered ages of untold years.

An interpretation of Job and Genesis according to the principles of common sense will bring light out of darkness, and make the vague passages clear. The phrase: "The moving stars sang together," expresses nothing. It is poetic. Milton, also poetic in writing, "The planets in their station listening stood," expressed a better poet, but did not grasp the full meaning of the sacred writer. If we interpret the passage as "When the moving stars stood together," we are face to face with a natural law—the heavenly bodies, or planets, and their magnetic influence acting upon the earth, forcing it into an orbit of its own, just as comets, supposedly of a different substance, are attracted by the sun, and closed orbits by the great planets of the solar system.

"Whether the earth was a 'nebula,' as claimed by Laplace, or a 'meteoric aggregation,' as proposed by Brewster, cannot be accurately determined, but the inference is, it is composed of both, the meteor dust in past ages, as well as now, mingling with the gases until the crust was formed, separate from the earth, from those outside of the crust (those outside gradually becoming clear), until the atmosphere and the land were formed, while the rocky crust of the earth made it a hollow sphere, flattened at the poles. Such being the case, the atmosphere, the land and water, and the internal gases of the earth, necessarily abound in the same ratio as they do in the natural law of gravitation, or magnetic attraction of the heavenly bodies. If, then, in obedience to this divine law, the heavenly bodies forced the earth into its orbit it has been lighter (and, as we know, as it became cooler and heavier, we must believe they still exert their influence upon us, whether under the guise of the sun or a planet, as in the case of the tides of the ocean).

Conceding this, we are able to see that at sundry times this has been disastrous to the earth, hence the Almighty's questions to Job, to which he did not reply. The original creation of the earth and the subsequent cataclysm wherein earthly life was destroyed prior to the advent of man. By putting the passages together, as we understand them, the whole thing becomes an easily comprehended demonstration, thus:

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

"When the moving stars stood together."

"In the beginning God created the heaven (the atmosphere) and the earth."

Now come to the later period, when the attractive force of the heavenly bodies, the sun and moon combined upon the earth was weakened, so the waters of the sea could have receded from the equator and covered the land, hence, a submergence of the world, and see how the passages read:

"Who shut up the sea with doors when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?"

"When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it."

"And the earth was desolate and unhabited, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the wind of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Doesn't this show two things—a cataclysm, destroying all existence on the earth, and, subsequently, a great tempest, that drove away the cloud hanging like a pall over the sea—evidently caused by the loss of the attractive power of the sun and the moon upon the waters, probably resulting from all the planets being on the opposite side of the sun; and the other, the restoration of their attractive power, by which the tempest arose, dispersing the clouds above us, and drawing up the waters and held them at the equator. The firmament was also created, or restored, by which the atmosphere absorbed its particles of water, giving the light of day, and the sun, moon, and stars. In this connection is another common error—the creation of light. It is generally understood that when God said: "Let there be light, and there was light," that the light was created, and of universal light, but light is not universal; if it was, there would be no shadow or darkness. Such is not the meaning of the text, as we have seen, showing that after the dispersion of the cloud and the creation of the firmament, the diurnal motion of the earth from that period to the present has given us day and night successively. Genesis cannot possibly refer to the creation of universal light. Here we have the demonstration of one natural law still existing. It will be noticed it was the fourth day and moon, and the stars were all visible in the sky. Turn to any work on astronomy and you will find the moon is invisible two days before and after the sun, and remains so until the second day after it

and elsewhere, with an earthquake in the island of Malta.

On the 27th, the moon was in conjunction with Mercury and Venus. The same day there were earthquakes in Sicily, Calabria, Greece, Egypt and Italy, with the loss of 300 lives in Greece.

On the 29th, the moon was in perigee, and in conjunction with the sun (new moon), and on the 30th, Mercury, Mars, a severe thunderstorm at Chicago, the lightning exploding the Laflin & Rand powder magazine.

On the 31st, the moon was in conjunction with Saturn, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus. Saturn, Venus, Jupiter and Mercury were on lines with the sun, while the new moon, the earth and Jupiter were also in a line. This denoted a highly electric condition of the solar system, especially prevailing in the sun. On that date there were frosts in Iowa and Minnesota, rain at Omaha at 10 p. m., and about the same day, earthquakes in California, U. S., and west of the Mississippi, also at Smyrna and in Europe. Still, one scientific gentleman thought the earthquake at Charleston was a local affair, caused by a local fault, and the sea undermining the land, and letting it sink to a lower level, which seems to have been the trouble with San Francisco on divers occasions.

On September 1, the earthquake continued in the unfortunate city, and as will be seen by the ephemeris (positions) of the stars, the sun gave signs of electric excitement. The cause of the earthquake is in the fact that on that day a magnetic storm prevailed in all of the eastern states, showing it to be celestial, and not terrestrial, influences that wrought the disturbance. The storm was unusual, and the conditions are passing, if they have not already passed away, and it will take millions of dollars to restore the city of Charleston to its former beauty.

On the 1886 calendar there are numerous, but want of space forbids their mention. Two of the most notable were in July and August.

July 29 the moon was in conjunction with Saturn and Mars, and on the night of the 28th the island of Ichia was visited by a severe earthquake, followed by a storm on the succeeding day. On the 29th it rained all day and night at Omaha.

August 25 and 26, Krakatoa was destroyed by the great earthquake. On the 25th the moon was again in conjunction with Saturn. On the same day it was cloudy at Omaha.

October 19, the moon was once more in conjunction with Saturn, and Jupiter with Mars. Ice formed one-fourth of an inch thick at Omaha, and a heavy fog prevailed on the lakes at midnight of the 19th and 20th, with the wind blowing at the rate of fifty miles an hour. The Atlantic was swept by a gale. Four feet of snow fell in Canada, and a severe earthquake at Bermuda, and one at Gibraltar about midnight of the 19th and at 2 a. m. of the 20th.

Knowing and appreciating the superior conjunction with the sun. On the night of the 28th the island of Ichia was visited by a severe earthquake, followed by a storm on the succeeding day. On the 29th it rained all day and night at Omaha.

Those prevailing at the earthquake at Lisbon show an equally exciting condition of the solar system. Speaking of this earthquake a writer says: "The effects of thunder were heard underground, and immediately a violent shock threw down the greater part of the city. In six minutes 90 persons were killed, and many collected for safety upon a new quay. It sank suddenly into the sea, and not one of the dead bodies ever floated to the surface. A whirlpool was formed, and great numbers of boats, and other vessels were swallowed up, and never found. The water is now 600 feet deep. The earthquake extended from the Baltic sea to the West Indies, and from Canada to the Cape of Good Hope, and allowed a village of 10,000 inhabitants on the same day."

But while we are looking upon these monsters of the earth, let us see what was done by the Creator in His meteorological family—electric clouds. Dr. Dick says: "In the year 1772, a bright cloud was observed at midnight cover a mountain in the island of Java, which emitted flames and lightning, that the night became as clear as day. It destroyed everything for twenty miles around, buildings were demolished, plantations buried in the earth, 600 cattle, a vast number of horses and other animals, and about 2,000 human beings."

Of another he says: "On the 29th of October, 1757, in the island of Malta, a fire after midnight, a great black cloud appeared, which changed to a white, and approached the city until it became like a flame of fire, mixed with black smoke, and a dreadful noise was heard on its approach. It tore a hole in the wall, and carried the masts, rigging and cordage to a great distance. Small boats in its course were broken to pieces and sunk. In passing through the city it laid in ruins everything that it touched. Houses were leveled with the ground, the roofs of churches were demolished; not one steple was left in its passage, and the bells, together with the spires, were carried to a distance of several miles, and lost their lives." This must have been a tornado, and its electric features are at once apparent.

You ask why these phenomena are so frequent and so terrible? Because the heat is greater, and possibly the crust of the earth may be thinner near the edges of the continents of Europe and America. None can doubt this as to the latter, because the volcanic eruptions are always more destructive. Is the earth in danger from earthquakes? The earth is inflammable and explosive enough to blow it to pieces. A little ignited gas, or a spark, or a single electric ray for the purpose. An electric shock might disarrange the oxygen in the atmosphere, and without increasing the heat, by sinking it to the surface of the earth, every thing would melt with heat. But we need not fear for the present. The earth is in the hands of the Creator, and He has given us to understand a certain amount of knowledge fulfilled in the centuries to come, for the final catastrophe which is to wind up the world and its affairs. Then future generations may look "for great earthquakes, and divers kind of signs and portents, and fearful sights and great signs from heaven, when the earth shall remove out of her place (orbit), and reel to and fro like a drunkard, when it shall be utterly broken down, and dissolved."

This indicates that the earthquake, caused by magnetic attraction, will explode the crust of the earth, when the internal gases set loose will fire the atmosphere and set it on fire as a scroll, reducing the earth once more to gaseous, with its framework broken down and clean dissolved, unit for the habitation of a single regenerate human soul—these are the words of Isaiah, who are to be cast therein forever.

E. F. TEST.

Get a Mic.

Wall Street News. A Cleveland grain dealer who had a few thousand dollars to spare was advised by a friend to invest it in oil. The dealer held off for a while, but when it was flying in the face of the Lord to enter into speculation, he finally put up \$4,000 and in a few weeks came out winner by over a thousand.

"Well, I guess you have changed your mind about speculation," remarked the friend as he met him.

"Yes, somewhat," was the reply.

"I've kinder come to believe that the Lord has got me, and Deacon Smith thinks so, for he says I've lost and dropped fifteen hundred dollars in a month."

"Business, business, business," said the dealer, "and you are crying and distressed by taking Dr. H. H. Clegg's Liver and Kidney Pills."

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Its Development and Improvement in Recent Years.

A VISIT TO AN ENGINE HOUSE.

Sung Quarters for the Firemen—How an Alarm is Responded to—A Lightning Piece of Work.

[Written for the Omaha Sunday Bee.]

There is no arm of the municipal service which, in recent years, has undergone as much development and improvement as the fire department. Commencing with the bucket brigade and attaining to the steam engine, it has called the lightning into requisition to locate the destroying flames and enable its almost instantaneous attendance upon them.

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The members of these companies are as follows: No. 1, Twentieth and Izard, Lon Cassidy, captain; M. Carter, driver; Delos Bessie and James Conner, pipemen; No. 2, Tenth street, Ted Grebe, captain; Samuel H. Driver, driver; Patrick Nolan and Al. Rippey, pipemen.

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As I reached the end of the apartment, the rain outside commenced to fall with redoubled violence. Against the low roof every drop seemed to fall with a distinct sensation, and the force has been enumerated. At several places the roof had worn out, and the elemental fury was visible in streams of water upon the floor. Some of these led by a room on the left in divers directions, and the fire-alarm telegraph are stored, and wound around the hose in the ceiling, before mentioned, up through which came the brass pipe referred to. There were two of these apertures and pipes, one in either end of the room.

I was about to return to the lower floor when I looked at the dial. It was 1 o'clock, and the instant the horses below seemed to be destroyed, they were deluged with the water of thirty engines. The alarming and boddy sounds of the electric gong beneath and the heavy bell on the left in either end of the room, and the intimation of the stroke, if such there be when a sound is heard, had passed, when, in those fifteen beds took place

AN ERUPTIVE EPHEMERAL. Fifteen minutes ago, a patient suddenly galvanized into life. Fifteen before went wherever they chose, and fifteen men, clad in underclothes rolled out of bed, jumped into their waiting boots, and, as if by magic, paraded and summoned them at the door. They were dressed for the fire. Not a word was said, some ran to one pole, some to another, and all, like the demon in the pantomime, disappeared in a twinkling, and the fire-alarm telegraph was almost bewildering, and instinctively I grasped the nearest pole, and following their example, descended to the floor. The men had traded, and one Butler's management had built seven of the engine houses now in town. They are all required to sleep in the engine houses, and are thus enabled to make the response to an emergency call. The single exception to this rule is the chief, who sleeps at home on Eleventh street, near Harney. The alarm that arouses the men also awakes him from his slumbers, and he is hurried to the engine house, and is driven to the chief's house, where Mr. Galligan is waiting to be driven to the fire. His horse and driver are familiar features. Both seem to realize the

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Its Development and Improvement in Recent Years.

A VISIT TO AN ENGINE HOUSE.

Sung Quarters for the Firemen—How an Alarm is Responded to—A Lightning Piece of Work.

[Written for the Omaha Sunday Bee.]

There is no arm of the municipal service which, in recent years, has undergone as much development and improvement as the fire department. Commencing with the bucket brigade and attaining to the steam engine, it has called the lightning into requisition to locate the destroying flames and enable its almost instantaneous attendance upon them.

Since the oldest settler located in this vicinity, he has seen the bucket brigade, the hand-engine, the volunteer fireman, file into the memory of the past, while even the loggers within, and some of the streets of the western hills the gutters, swollen with the down-pour, roared like mountain torrents. Now and then, in passing in haste with a lighted candle through a window, a certain world is drawn and a sleepy head would, as if to see whether destruction threatened its owner's abode. No other gaping mortal would be dashed to the ground by the storm, or the stormer's darkness, momentarily dispelled by ominous flashes of lightning. At length, after a ride of about half a mile, a flaming cottage, with a single horse and driver, was seen. Horses and men are drenched, and as the flames break through the roof of the structure, the directed stream of the hose anticipates the torrents of heaven.

Not many nights ago, the rain fell in torrents, and I was forced to take shelter in

THE FIRE SYSTEM is confined to the fact that the ringing of the fire-bell is supposed to designate a locality where a fire is in progress, and when, a moment later, a hook and ladder or hose cart rushes by, the latter are making all due haste to reach the endangered neighborhood. Behind these, however, there is a great deal which is not always grasped by the curious, and yet not sought by others to whom it might be of interest.

Not many nights ago, the rain fell in torrents, and I was forced to take shelter in

THE ENGINE HOUSE. It was well advanced toward the fire department of this city, each of which would consider it a reflection to be suspected of not being able to do what has been above detailed. It is the boast of every one of them that they can respond to an alarm, both at night and during the day, be on the street before the first signal has ceased striking the numbers of the box. There is nobody to deny the fact, because it is exemplified in the fact that during the year 1885, the ambition to excel is strongly rooted in the members, and may eventually result in a contest which shall determine to which company the palm of excellence belongs.

The members of these companies are as follows: No. 1, Twentieth and Izard, Lon Cassidy, captain; M. Carter, driver; Delos Bessie and James Conner, pipemen; No. 2, Tenth street, Ted Grebe, captain; Samuel H. Driver, driver; Patrick Nolan and Al. Rippey, pipemen.